REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Final Office Action in the above-identified application mailed on March 11, 2002. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-13 and 16-21 are pending. Claims 12, 13, 16, and 18-21 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. The Drawings have also been amended. A marked-up version of the amended claim is supplied at the end of this response as required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1).

All amendments are supported by the specification, drawings and claims as filed. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Drawings

The Examiner has indicated that Figure 1 should be designated as "Prior Art". Accordingly, Applicants have made such amendment to the figure. To render the prior art drawing more accurate, Applicants have amended specific amino acid numbers to recite simply "BD" for "binding domain" or "AD" for "activation domain"

Additionally, a typographical error in Figure 3 in which "GAL4pBD" was designated at "GAL4DBD" has been corrected.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that all drawings are now correct, clear and bearing proper designations. Withdrawal of all objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1, Written Description

The Examiner has rejected Claims 12, 13, 16, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 for failure of the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection but hereby cancel Claims 12, 13, 16, and 18-21 without prejudice or disclaimer in to order advance prosecution in the present application. Claims 12, 13, 16, and 18-21 are subject to the file of a continuing application. Withdrawal of the §112, ¶1, written description rejection is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-13, 16, 17, and 18-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended so that the preamble better relates to the steps of the claim.

Claim 1 has been amended to introduce various clarifications as recommended by the Examiner. In addition, Applicants submit Claims 2, 4-6, and 8-11 and 17 that depend from Claim 1 have been placed in condition for allowance.

Claims 12, 13, 16, and 18-21 have been cancelled, rendering the Examiner's rejections of these claims moot.

Applicants therefore submit that all remaining pending claims are definite and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Withdrawal of the rejection under §112, ¶2 is requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11 and 17 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Applicants believe that a fee of $200 is required for a two-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(2) from June 11, 2002 to August 11, 2002. Accordingly, a check in that amount is enclosed. Should any additional fees be due as a result of this amendment or for any other reason during prosecution of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the payment of any required fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Drawing:

Please replace Drawing Sheet 1, Figure 1 and Drawing Sheet 2, Figures 2-4 with the replacements sheets attached hereto. Amendments shown as red-lined for the Examiner's review and approval.

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 12, 13, 16, and 18-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (twice amended) A method for detecting an interaction between a first test protein and a second test protein at variable sensitivities via a detectable reporter gene, the method comprising:

(a) providing a host cell wherein the host cell comprises a detectable reporter gene capable of expressing a detectable reporter gene product;

(b) providing to the host cell a first hybrid protein comprising a polypeptide region capable of binding DNA and a bait polypeptide derived from the first test protein and a second hybrid protein comprising a polypeptide region capable of transcriptional activation and a prey polypeptide derived from the second test protein, wherein the host cell is additionally provided with the capacity to regulate the absolute or relative amounts of the first and second hybrid proteins;

(c) regulating the amounts of the first and second hybrid proteins in a continuously adjustable manner so the detectable reporter gene is activated; and

(d) determining the extent to which the detectable reporter gene has been activated **whereby an interaction between the first test protein and the second test protein is detected**.